

## **William Charles Cole Claiborne to Andrew Jackson, March 27, 1807, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

**W. C. C. CLAIBORNE TO JACKSON.**

New Orleans, March 27, 1807.

Confidential

*My Dear Sir*, I inclose you a paper, containing addresses from a number of respectable Citizens approbatory of the Conduct of General Wilkinson and myself.<sup>1</sup> I will not undertake to say, how far the political character of the General may be justly subjected to exceptions; but I do verily believe that he opposed Burr from principle, and that his late acts here, were done with the best intentions.

<sup>1</sup> Governor Claiborne was suspected of complicity with Burr, and this letter goes far to support the charge.

I must again pray you not to credit all the Reports and publications which reach you from this quarter; Believe me many are erroneous. You may perhaps see a Copy of a Memorial to Congress which was reported by a Committee of the Legislature, and which has been rejected by a great majority in the House of Representatives. The Committee was greatly imposed upon, and have given the sanction of their names to many misrepresentations; The conduct of the public agents is not justly stated; The embargo was resorted to on the unanimous recommendation of the Merchants, and the measure was not previously advised either by the General or myself. I did not declare (as is stated in the Memorial) the letter to which I alluded to be "Anonymous." I did (it is true) avoid naming the writer, but stated it to be from a highly esteemed friend of mine; a Gentleman of the greatest

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respectability in Tennessee, and who held, and deservedly so, a great share of public confidence; I added "that there was no deception; the letter was from my friend, for I knew his hand writing." In the discharge of my duty I lately communicated in confidence (among other Letters) to the Legislature, a Copy of your friendly and patriotic communication to me, and in this way they became acquainted with the name of the writer. I have been thus particular, in order that the perusal of the Memorial may make no unjust impressions upon your mind. I shall write you fully on the return of my Brother. You will have seen Workman's letters and Oath; this man is not worthy of public confidence; he was justly suspected to be concerned with Burr; My Conduct has been correct. It is approved by my judgment and will I am persuaded be satisfactory to the President.

My Situation has been embarrassing; but I acted with deliberation and with the best intentions; I consulted also from time to time the opinions of Men in whom both the Government and myself could confide; These Men were the Members of the Legislative Council Messrs. Poydras, Mather, Bellchasse, Macarty and Fauchet, and I have the satisfaction to add, that by them, my general conduct during the late interesting Crisis was approved; These Gentlemen knew of Workman's Communication to me, and deprecated the Idea of my introducing a Civil War by arraying the Militia against the regular Troops. May God bless you!

your friend sincerely

P. S. the paper containing the addresses is not printed and as the mail is about closing, I am obliged to close my letter